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GAIN Report #MO9008

Morocco

Citrus

Citrus Update - May 1999

1999

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Report Highlights:

There has been no significant change in fresh citrus export estimates since our last report. The export season for most varieties is over. The Maroc Late orange exports are expected to end by mid-July. Estimates for citrus processing have been revised down slightly.

Includes PSD changes: Yes
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes
Semi-Annual Report
Rabat [MO1], MO

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Executive Summary

Fresh Citrus: The Ag.Attache has increased the fresh citrus export estimate to 560,000 MT since the the annual report in November 1998. The slight increase reflects a rise in small citrus fruit exports. The export season is over for the small citrus tangerine-like fruit (Clementine, Nour and Ortanique) and for Navel, Salutiana and bloody oranges. The Maroc Late variety, which accounts for the largest share of citrus exports, is still being exported, but should end by mid July.

Processed Citrus: The major citrus processor decreased its estimates for orange processing to 65,000 MT . The low prices offered by FRUMAT this year did not appeal to citrus growers who preferred to sell their production to the more lucrative fresh market. Fresh market prices have been steadily high this year because of relatively low local production. On the other hand, FRUMAT's weak financial situation prevents it from offering higher prices to growers which would further reduce its competitiveness in the world citrus concentrate market.

The table below provides new and old estimates of production, export, and processing (1000 MT):

	Tanger. Like	Oranges	Lemon	Others	Total
New Estimates					
- Production	390	810	20	15	1,235
- Exports	220	330	.	10	560
- Processing	2	65	.	.	67
Old Estimates					
- Production	390	810	20	15	1,235
- Exports	200	330	.	10	540
- Processing	7	83	.	.	90